

1-3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for reducing damage caused to a circular saw blade on a delimbing machine, comprising:

a saw head compartment of a delimbing machine, the saw head compartment

< having an access door [[with]] that pivots about a vertical pivot axis, the access door
< having an inside surface;

< a circular saw blade rotatably supported within the saw head compartment,

< the circular saw blade having a first face and a second face, the circular saw blade

< being movable between a lowered cutting position and a raised retracted position in

< which the saw blade is substantially retracted within the saw head compartment with

< only a lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade extending

< below the access door of the saw head compartment;

at least one contact member mounted to the inside surface of the access door of the saw head compartment, the at least one contact member being

< positioned immediately adjacent to and spaced laterally from the first face of the

< circular saw blade and radially inwardly from [[a]] the lower circumferential peripheral
edge of the circular saw blade when in a retracted position within the saw head compartment, such that lateral movement of the lower circumferential peripheral edge of the circular saw blade is confined by the at least one contact member engaging a first face of the circular saw blade along the lower circumferential peripheral edge.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus as defined in Claim 4, wherein there is more than one contact member.

7. (CANCELLED)